

THE INDEPENDENT

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F. J. TESTA, Proprietor and Publisher.

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WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18, 1903.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

A question for the Problem Club: "President McKinley annexed us to a war in the Philippines that has cost nearly \$300,000,000 and will likely keep up for 300 years—how much will Mr. Roosevelt's racket in Panama cost and how long will it last?"

Our dicky bird has been talking again and has it that there will be something real lively doing when the Grand Jury finishes its work on the election ballots. Some of the men connected with the last election may land where they will not "try it" again, according to our information.

We presume that the Republican candidates who made capital of the fact in the recent campaign that the Republican party had given the people the county act will now come forward and admit that the law was something like the negro's pound of cheese—"most a half a pound of holes."

One thing can be said to the credit of Judge Dole: He never sought the office, the duties of which he assumed this morning. The appointment was made by the President independent of any effort on his part. Contrasted with his case, however, is that of Governor Carter, who has been working in and out of season for three years for

the commission he hopes to get. In the one instance the office sought the man; in the other the man sought the office.

The Advertiser, organ of the crowd that claimed in the recent election to have given the people the county bill, now hopes that the entire law can be knocked out by the courts. Its reason for this change of front is based upon the fact that it failed to elect L. A. Andrews and others of its pets in the other islands. It so happens, however, that the courts are still in the business of respecting the will of the majority, despite the Advertiser and its grab-all crew.

The death of William H. Cornwell at Waikapu this morning removes from Honolulu and Maui one of their most respected and useful citizens. For many years Mr. Cornwell has held a prominent position in the business, political and social affairs of the Islands, and his friends were legion. The news of his death will pain everyone in Honolulu whose fortune it was to know Mr. Cornwell, and those who knew him only by reputation will feel that the community has sustained an irreparable loss.

Because the Colombian troops have not yet appeared over the ridge, no one need imagine that things are quiet and the goose is hanging high at Bogota. As sure as the sun continues to rise for a few days, there will be something popping at Panama. Time is not being wasted for nothing. Colombia will either go to war, with South America behind her, and the sympathy of Europe or she will have on her hands one of the most deadly revolutions in her history. The former is most apt to happen.

A larger proportion of the citizens of Hawaii speak the English language than in Louisiana. For hundreds of miles in that State about all the English one can wring out of the Creole population is the question: "Do you come from America?" Hawaii's percentage of illiteracy is so far below that of Louisiana as to render comparison preposterous. The only reasonable objection to the admission of Hawaii as a State is its distance from the mainland, and that objection has been largely removed by the cable and the inauguration of rapid steamship service.

The Pacific Coast States seem still to be unaware of the danger they are in from Japanese immigration. For the first six months of 1903 over 14,000 Japanese were landed in Honolulu, and it is to be supposed that the final figures for the year will show 30,000 or more. With many of these Honolulu is merely a way station, it being already overcrowded with Japs, and they have as their ultimate destination the better fields of Washington, Oregon and California. If the people of those States are wise they will immediately start an agitation in Congress for an exclusion act similar to that in force against China. Better

to do it now than to find themselves forced to do it when the country is flooded with the Mikado's subjects, which will come, if the present flow is allowed to go on, in a very few years.

There was something touching in the inauguration of former Governor Dole into the office of Federal Judge this morning. At his left hand was the chair left vacant by that great and good man, Judge Estee, a man of the people and one whose life was given for the people, irrespective of race or station, draped in the colors of mourning. About it seemed to hover the spirit of the departed jurist, whom everybody respected and loved. It was a kind of mockery, that scene; and it terminated none too soon for the hearts of many people present in the court room.

The Independent should not try to tell what it doesn't know about American political methods. It hasn't the space.—Advertiser.

When the Advertiser runs out of material for argument, it resorts to ugly and senseless flings. The Independent knows this much of American political methods: The majority is supposed to rule. When a man is cleanly and clearly defeated he is supposed to step aside, and it is considered unfair and an insult to a majority of voters for any party to saddle such a person upon a community in an appointive office.

It does not seem to us to be a square deal for the United States navy to supply foreign war vessels at this port with coal. We have coal dealers here in that business, and it is unfair for the Government to butt in and take their legitimate trade from them. It is all right for the United States to extend such courtesies to outside vessels at coaling stations in foreign countries (in Cuba, for instance) but this is a Territory, American citizens are doing the business here and they are entitled to all the trade of the sort indicated that is going. Uncle Sam is carrying his Happy Hooligan qualities just far enough to cut local coal dealers out of dollars to which they are entitled.

The death of Colonel W. H. Cornwell this morning leaves the Democratic party without a national committeeman in the Islands. The rules of the party give the chairman of the National Committee the authority to fill vacancies in such cases, commissions to hold good until the succeeding convention. Inasmuch as work for the next campaign must shortly begin, this vacancy should be filled at once. The proper way to do it is by action and recommendation by the Territorial Central Committee. At the beginning we wish to suggest the naming of a native Hawaiian for the office. The Democratic party must cater in a large measure to the Hawaiian vote, and the presence of a competent and popular Hawaiian at the head of the party would influence more than anything else that vote. There are a

number of competent Hawaiians in the party that could probably be induced to give their time and attention to the important work of this office.

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